

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Thaddeus Waterman (chair), Dawn Taft (staff), Janet Nackoney (notes), James Ball, James Wigley, Melissa Schweisguth, Joseph Demarco, Jared Messinger, Rayya Newman

Guests: Dave Horlick, Jamie Bean, Kim Rush Lynch

Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [September meeting minutes](#): **APPROVED**
3. Public Comment Period
 - a. No comments from guests
4. Committee Stipend Program Survey Update (Nate)
 - a. City of Hyattsville is offering a program to give City volunteers a monetary stipend for their participation in City initiatives. This initiative is aimed to increase equity and help volunteers feel
 - b. Everyone in the committee is automatically enrolled unless you decline the stipend
 - c. \$40/meeting
5. [Prince George's County Green Summit](#) Updates
 - a. [Sign-up sheet for volunteers](#) to help out at the City table at the Summit (sign-up is now closed for t-shirts, but you can still show up).
 - b. We have a lot of volunteers; looks like we might have more than one table.
6. Setting a carbon neutrality goal Updates (James)
 - a. Initial call yesterday with a sub-committee interested in this topic; both county and state-level goals around carbon neutrality, but lack of alignment.
 - b. Most impactful effort to put forward would be to utilize goals already set at State and Co levels, as well as the [Metropolitan Washington Committee of Government \(COG\) efforts to make a GHG Inventory of Hyattsville](#), and to create a list of actionable goals that Hyattsville take on in order to align with and meet both State and County goals.
 - c. Sub-committee plans to continue to meet and invite a speaker from COG and a liaison member from the City to participate.
7. Code Compliance Committee Urban Agriculture Initiative (Jamie Bean, Hyattsville Code Compliance Committee volunteer; and Kim Rush Lynch, Urban

Ag Conservation Program Manager with the Prince George's Soil Conservation District)

- a. Hyattsville code compliance team has been looking at our Hyattsville code to understand how we can update our City code to reflect changes in PG county code regarding having chickens on residential property
 - b. PG Co has recognized urban agriculture as a strategy to reduce the effects of climate change
 - c. Backyard chickens are currently not allowed. But if you are in an ag zone or open space there have been some exceptions granted.
 - d. Not much regulation around poultry in general.
 - e. [PG zoning code](#)
 - f. Backyard composting and mushroom harvesting are other examples of misalignment between Hyattsville City code and County code.
 - g. DW: Illicit discharge is another gap between Hyattsville City code and county code; stormwater regs compliance as well. This is a big issue that City DPW is dealing with.
 - h. [2023 PG Co Community Garden Summit](#) next Saturday– please join!
 - i. VOTE: HEC will follow up with Hyattsville Code Compliance Committee to continue working on these issues: **APPROVED**
 - j. Follow up with Kim: karlynch@co.pg.md.us, 301.574.5162 x3
8. Invasive Removals Outings with Council Members
- a. No council representatives present– agenda item postponed to next meeting.
9. Announcements
- a. MS: MNCPPC is taking [public comments](#) for the PG Co Planning Board. Could HEC make a recommendation to increase funding for invasive removal in MNCPPC parks? Another issue is public litter– there is a need to increase trash cans for dog waste and recycling, which are either lacking (lots of litter) or bins are overflowing. Taking action on this would require a motion for Council to ask the City to sign a letter making this request.
 - i. Melissa available to draft the letter. **APPROVED**
 - b. TW: Some recent issues with HEC email listserv; let's make sure we aren't missing calls for updating the agenda in the future. TW will make our agendas available in the [Google Drive folder](#) for our agendas.
 - c. RN: [Creative Thinking event](#): a workshop for small businesses and non-profits. Includes presentations about green building (interior and exterior), geothermal, alternative energy.
 - d. Updates from DPW (DW)
 - i. The goats will return to the Branch trail! Family event on Oct 28 for goat education and environment.
 - ii. Train derailment and plastic pellet waste [update](#)

10. Adjournment.